

Mount St. Helens

National Volcanic Monument Fiscal Year in Review — 2010

Johnston Ridge Observatory

An obscured view of the crater and wet weather at Johnston Ridge Observatory did not dampen enthusiasm for the thirtieth anniversary of the Mount St. Helens May 18, 1980 eruption. Hundreds of people turned out for the commemorative event which included a ribbon cutting for new interpretive exhibits, a ground-breaking for a new amphitheater and a presentation of scenic images made at Mount St. Helens by National Geographic photographers.



In preparation for 2011 is a movie capturing the return of life to Mount St. Helens along with six new interactive kiosks delving into the rebirth of plants and animals around the volcano. As visitors line up for upcoming auditorium showings, new short films about Mount St. Helens will entertain them on a series of new displays.



Brand new audiovisual equipment replaces unreliable technology and gives film viewers a dazzling experience in the newly upgraded auditorium.

With Mount St. Helens crater as a stunning backdrop, the new 150-seat amphitheater will provide a one-of-a-kind setting for interpretive talks, music and presentations.

Some of the other work that at Johnston Ridge Observatory included a new roof, new carpet and new windows to provide clear views of the spectacular crater.



Around the Monument

Throughout this 30th anniversary year, visitors to the Monument enjoyed new exhibits, kiosks, interpretive signs and much more. Numerous facilities maintenance projects were completed and are still slated around the Monument at many places including Pine Creek, Windy Ridge, Coldwater facilities and Johnston Ridge Observatory. All these projects were funded by \$5.87 million in Recovery Act funding and \$1.74 million in additional Forest Service funding.

Trail crews from the Mount St. Helens Institute, Washington Trails Association and Washington Conservation Corps brushed trails, repaired slumped areas and generally improved trail safety around the Monument. Day hikes and backpacking trips throughout Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument give visitors a more private experience of this ever-changing volcanic landscape.



Interpretive Signs



After 25 years of service, more than 50 weather-beaten interpretive signs are getting replaced. This provides the valuable opportunity to refresh the story of Mount St. Helens with some of the things that have been learned in the last 30 years.

In total, installation of 51 new interpretive signs are expected by summer 2011. Phase one of these installations included 14 new, longer-lasting,

fused polycarbonate signs were already installed at places like the Trail of Two Forests Boardwalk, Lahar Viewpoint, Clearwater Viewpoint, the Edge Viewpoint, Windy Ridge and Pine Creek Information Station.



Partners and Volunteers

Helping visitors from all over the world learn more about the lower 48's most active volcano, providing climbing route information to intrepid climbers and ridding the emerging landscape of invasive weeds are just some of the volunteer efforts occurring around Mount St. Helens each year. Thanks to strong partnerships with the Mount St. Helens Institute, adjacent County governments and the dedication of many additional volunteers, Mount St. Helens is more safe, beautiful and accessible.



Helping others, getting your hands dirty and gaining appreciation for this international treasure are among the best ways to get to know your volcano.

Gifford Pinchot Award Winner – Monument Scientist, Peter Frenzen

Monument Scientist, Peter Frenzen, was bestowed the US Forest Service's 2010 Gifford Pinchot Award for Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education at the annual meeting of the National Association of Interpretation. The award recognizes Frenzen's dedication to sharing the knowledge of scientific discovery and nature with volcano visitors, educators and students. Frenzen led efforts to develop award-winning exhibits, educational programs, documentaries and news stories at North America's youngest and most celebrated volcano. Debuting in 2011, is Frenzen's work on new interactive exhibits telling the return of life story at Mount St. Helens along with a new film that will play at Johnston Ridge Observatory's improved auditorium.



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